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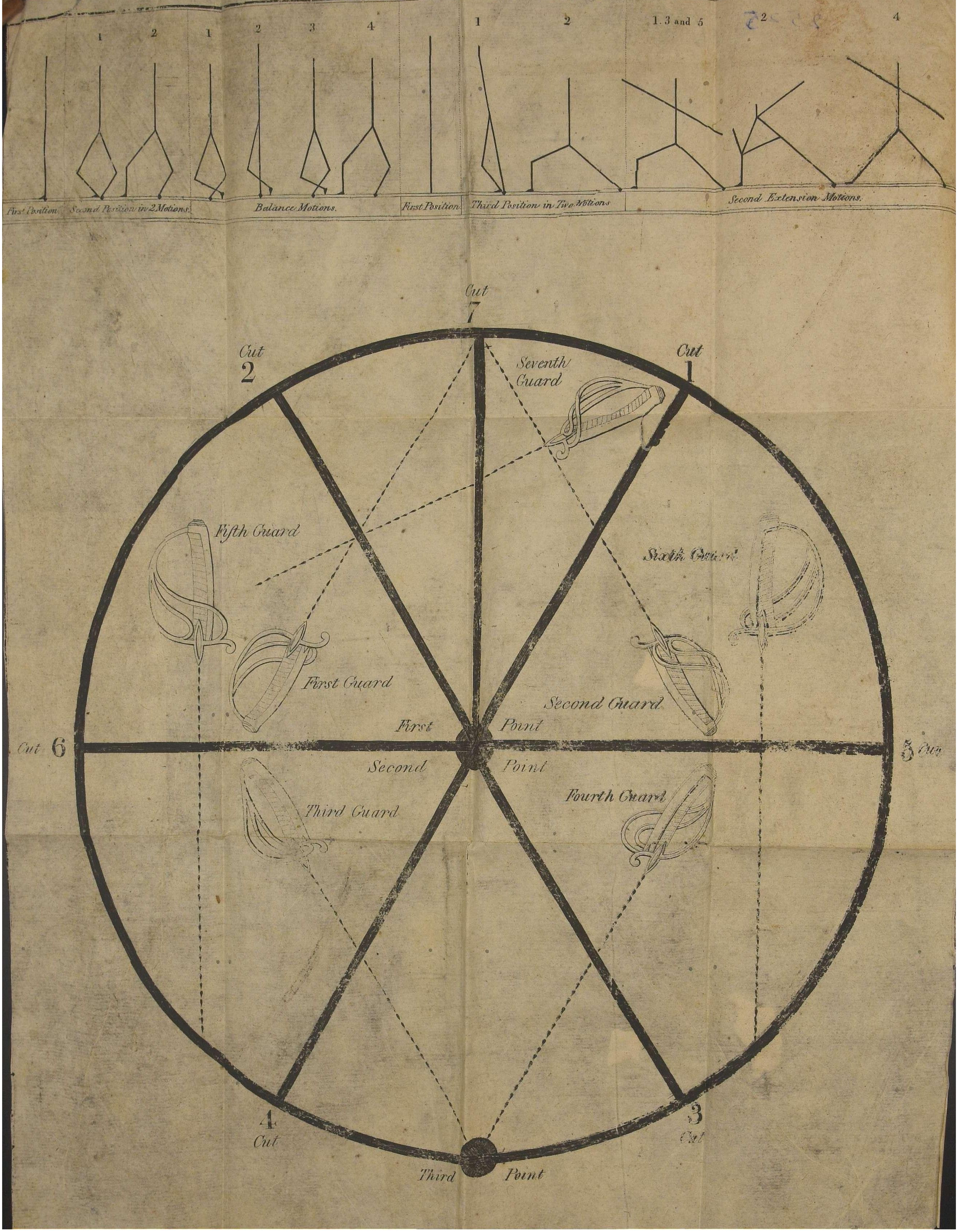
ANGELO'S SWORD EXERCISE.



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INFANTRY SWORD EXERCISE.

2525

REGULATIONS

AND

Instructions

FOR THE

INFANTRY SWORD EXERCISE.

ADJUTANT GENERAL's OFFICE, HORSE-GUARDS,

10*th September*, 1819.

By Authority.

RE-PRINTED AT THE ASYLUM PRESS,

MADRAS, 1827.

EXPLANATION AND USE

OF THE

TARGET.

The Target should be placed so as to have the centre rather below the height of a man's shoulder: from below this centre a line is drawn on the ground directly to the front; and, at the distance of about ten feet, the Recruit should be placed in the Position of *Attention*, with his left heel on the line, so that when he turns to the *First Position* of the Exercise, his right foot may cover it. The Circular Figure shews the seven *Cuts* and *Guards*. The *Cuts* are directed through the centre, distinguished by lines, and named according to that figure from which each *Cut* commences. The Guards are performed by holding the sword opposite, and the inclination of the dotted lines, which have sword-hilts attached to them, and supposing the circular figure to be about the breadth and height of a man's body, the *Cuts* and *Guards* will be regulated according to the lines described upon the circle; nor should the Recruit be practised in any other mode, until he has gained the proper direction of the *Cuts*, as well as the inclination of the blade, and position of the wrist, in forming the *Guards*.

The *Points*, or *Thrusts*, should be directed, as marked in the Target, with the wrist towards No. 1, and the edge of the sword raised to the right in the *First Point*; or towards

No. 2, with the edge raised to the left in the *Second Point*: and in the *Third Point*, with the wrist rising to the centre, the edge upwards to the right, and the point directed as marked on the bottom of the circle.

The sectional lines of the Figures over the Target represent the Preparatory Positions.

INFANTRY
SWORD EXERCISE.

&c. &c.

The Rules of Instruction are divided into Four Parts, viz.

PART I.

PREPARATORY POSITIONS *and* MOVEMENTS,

PREVIOUS TO USING THE SWORD.

PART II.

POSITIONS WITH THE SWORD, SALUTE, CUTS, POINTS, GUARDS, *and* PARRIES.

PART III.

ATTACK *and* DEFENCE.

PART IV.

PRACTICE DRILL *with* STICKS.

No. 368.

GENERAL ORDER.

Horse-Guards,
10th September, 1819.

His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief has been pleased to direct, that the following Rules and Regulations for the Sword Exercise shall be practised by the Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Regiments of Infantry in His Majesty's Service.

The Commander in Chief enjoins the Commanding Officers of Regiments to take care, that the Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers under their Command are made perfect in this Exercise; and General Officers making Reviews, or Inspections, of Regiments are hereby directed to specify in their Reports, whether the Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers have been properly instructed in the Sword Exercise.

The Instructions which accompanied the General Orders of the 1st February, 1817, and 1st May, 1818, having been embodied in the following Regulations, the General Orders of those dates are hereby cancelled.

By Command of
His Royal Highness
The Commander in Chief,
HARRY CALVERT,
Adjutant-General.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Explanation of the Target	10
Part the First	13
Part the Second	23
Part the Third	37
Part the Fourth	44
General Observations and Directions	57
Words of Command	66

PART I.

Of the Preparatory Positions and Movements previous to using the Sword.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
Attention.	THE body is to be erect, the heels close together, and the hands hanging down on each side.
First Extension Motions.	This serves as a caution, and the motions tend to expand the chest, raise the head, throw back the shoulders, and strengthen the muscles of the back.
One.	Bring the hands and arms to the front; the fingers lightly touching at the points, and the nails downwards; then raise them in a circular direction well above the head, the ends of the fingers still touching, the thumbs pointing to the rear, the

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
	elbows pressed back, and shoulders kept down.
Two.	Separate and extend the arms and fingers, forcing them obliquely back, till they come extended on a line with the shoulders ; and as they fall gradually from thence to the original position of *Attention*, endeavour, as much as possible, to elevate the neck and chest.

These two motions should be frequently practised with the head turned as much as possible to the right, or left, and the body kept square to the front, they should be repeated by flugelmen placed to the respective flanks :—this tends very materially to supple the neck, &c.

Three.	Turn the palms of the hands to the front, and press back the thumbs with the arms extended, and raise them to the rear, till they meet above the head ; the fingers pointing upwards, with the ends of the thumbs touching.
Four.	Keep the arms and knees straight, and bend over till the hands touch the feet, the head being brought down in the same direction.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
Five.	With the Arms flexible and easy from the shoulders, raise the body gradually, so as to resume the position of *Attention.*

The whole of these motions should be done very gradually, so as to feel the exertion of the muscles throughout.

First Position in Three Motions.	*Caution.*
One.	Move the hands smartly to the rear, the left grasping the right arm just above the elbow, and the right supporting the left arm under the elbow.
Two.	Make a half face to the left, turning on the heels, so that the back of the left touches the inside of the right heel; the head retaining its position to the front.
Three.	Bring the right heel before the left, the feet at right angles, and the right foot pointing to the front; the shoulders square to the left, and the weight of the body resting on the left leg.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
Second Position in Two Motions.	*Caution.*
One.	Bend the knees gradually, keeping them as much apart as possible, without raising the heels, or changing the erect position of the body.
Two.	Step out smartly with the right foot about eighteen inches in line with the left heel; the weight of the body remaining on the left leg.
Balance Motions.	*Caution.*
One.	Move the right foot about eight inches to the rear of the left heel, the toe lightly touching the ground, with the heel perpendicular to it, forcing the knees well apart.
Two.	Raise the body gradually by the extension of the left leg.
Three.	Bend the left knee, resuming the position made previous to the second motion.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
Four.	Advance the right leg, and with a smart beat of the foot resume the *Second Position*, from which the balance motions commenced.
First Position.	Extending both knees, draw the right heel up to the left.
Third Position in Two Motions.	*Caution.*
One.	Incline the right side to the front, with the hip kept in, so that the shoulder, and knee, are perpendicular to the point of the foot.
Two.	Step out smartly to the front, about thirty-six inches, with the knee perpendicular to the instep ; the left knee and foot kept straight and firm, the heels in a line, the body upright, and the shoulders square to the left.
Second Extension Motions.	*Caution.*
One.	Bring the arms to the front of the body

with the hands closed, and the knuckles uppermost, touching each other below the lower button of the jacket; raise them gradually (keeping the elbows on the same line with them) to the pit of the stomach, the knuckles of the fingers by degrees turning inwards: then, by forcing back the shoulders, the hands will be drawn apart, and the motion is completed, by sinking the elbows, and smartly extending the arms and fingers in a diagonal line, with the right wrist as high as the head, the shoulders kept down, and the thumbs inclined to the right.

For beginners, this motion may be divided, by giving the word *Prepare*, for the first part; and remaining perfectly steady, when the hands are brought to the breast ready to separate; then give the word, *One*, for the motion to be completed.

Two. Close the right hand, and draw it in to the shoulder, at the same time inclining the body forward, until the right elbow rest upon the point of the knee: the left arm rising gradually, and remaining extended, as the body advances, so as to bring the wrist as high as the head, which must be well kept up.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
Three.	Raise the upper part of the body, drawing in the elbow, and, when nearly upright, extend the right arm smartly, and open the hand; thereby resuming the position formed by the first motion.
Four.	Raise the body by extending the right leg.
Five.	Bend the right knee and advance the body, so as to resume the position in the first motion.
First Position.	Spring up with the arms to the rear, and the right heel close to the left, which forms the *First Position*, as before described.
Front.	Come smartly to the position of *Attention*, bringing the hands and feet, in one motion, to their proper places.

In the foregoing instructions, *the Positions and Movements preparatory to using the Sword*, have been explained, giving a separate word of command for each motion respectively. The same positions may now be gone through, naming only in the word of command the *position*, or *movement*, required,

and distinguishing it by the numbers *One*, *Two*, [illegible] is intended by this to practise the recruit in cl[illegible] the different positions readily, and without losing [illegible] which will almost invariably rest upon the left leg.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
Positions. by Numbers.	*Caution.*
One.	Raising the arms to the rear, and the right heel to the front, come at once to the *First Position*.
Two.	Come to the *Second Position*.
Three.	—to the *Third Position*.
Two.	—to the *Second Position*.
One.	—to the *First Position*.
Three.	—to the *Third Position*.
First Balance Motion.	Spring up to the position, as shewn in the *First Balance Motion*.
Three.	Step out to the *Third Position*.
First Balance Motion.	Spring up as before.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
Two.	Step out to *the Second Position.*
Single Attack.	Raise the right foot, and beat it smartly on the ground.
Double Attack.	Raise the right foot, and beat it, as before, twice on the ground; first with the heel, and then with the flat of the foot.
Advance.	Move forward the right foot about six inches, and place it smartly on the ground; then bring up the left foot lightly about the same distance.
Single Attack.	As before.
Retire.	Move the left foot lightly to the rear about six inches, the whole weight and balance of the body still continuing to rest upon it; then move the right foot back the same distance, and place it smartly on the ground.
Double Attack.	As before.
Front.	Draw back the right foot, and resume the position of *Attention.*

The object of the preceding portion of the Drill, as Positions and Movements preparatory to using the sword, is to

give a free and active use of the limbs: a thorough command of which, with the knowledge of the best mode of position, in applying the force of the muscular powers, will not only facilitate and give great advantage in the use of the sword, but tend to ensure a proper efficacy to the cuts, and guards; enabling the beginner to gain more easily that pliability, as well as strength in his position, which may be required either for assault—defence—or in quickly returning the attack upon his adversary. The instructor should prove the firmness of the positions by bearing equally, and firmly, on the shoulders of the recruit, and during the changes in forming the *Second Position*, and *Balance Motions*; when in the *First* of the *Second Extension Motions*, by taking hold of his right wrist with both hands, and bearing upon it in the direction of the left leg, upon the line of which the right arm should be, if properly placed: and making him also in each position, move the right toe up and down, without its motion affecting the body. In all positions where both knees are bent, the more so they are, the better; as a greater spring and elasticity will be gained in forming quickly any other position. The body must be generally (and indeed almost always) balanced, and rest upon the left leg; by which means greater flexibility is allowed to the right leg in moving forward to gain distance upon an adversary, or *vice versâ*, in retiring from his reach. No precise length can be assigned in moving the right leg to the front in the *Third Position*, as it depends upon the length and stride of the person; but it should not be beyond what may allow of his return to the *First* or *Second Position* with quickness, and a perfect facility to himself. When this Section of the Exercise is practised as a Drill for the limbs only, it should be performed with the left shoulder and foot to the front, as well as with the right.

END OF THE FIRST PART.

PART II.

Of the Cuts, Points, Guards, and Parries.

THE Recruit being perfectly instructed in the preparatory movements, may now take the sword; making him acquainted with the strong and weak parts of it; the *forte*, (strong) being the half of the blade near the guard: the *foible*, (weak) the half towards the point. Indeed a knowledge of these distinctions is very material, either in giving, or guarding, a cut; as much depends upon their proper application. From the guard upwards in opposing the blade of an adversary, the strength decreases in proportion as it is received towards the point; and *vice versâ*, it increases from the point downwards. The *forte* ought always to gain the *foible* of the opponent's weapon, and the cuts should be given within eight inches of the point, that the sword may clear itself. In delivering a cut, it is advantageous if the *forte* meets the adversary's *foible*, as it will of course force his guard. The sword should be held flexible, and easy in the hand, but yet sufficiently firm to resist the cut of an adversary; and to give a cut, or thrust, with proper force and precision. The middle knuckles are to be in the direction of the edge in all cuts, and guards. If the sword is light, the thumb may be placed along the back of the handle; if heavy, the grip of the handle should be held by the thumb and fingers around it. According to the directions stated in the *Explanation of the Target*, the recruit should now be placed before it; or he may be previously instructed in the *drawing, returning, carrying, sloping swords, saluting,* &c.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
Draw Swords.	Take hold of the scabbard of the sword with the left hand, just below the hilt, which should be raised as high as the hip; then bend; and raise the right arm to the front as high as the shoulder, and move it across the body, until the hand seizes the hilt, turning it at the same time to the rear.—By a second motion draw the sword from the scabbard with an extended arm, the edge being to the rear; and lower the hand, until the hilt is in line with the chin, the blade perpendicular, and edge to the left, which forms the position of *Recover Swords.*—By a third motion lower the wrist below, and in line with, the right hip, the elbow being drawn back, and the arm extended as much as it can be with ease; the hand slightly grasping the sword, but ready, by the contraction of the fingers, to resume a firm hold.—The upper part of the sword will then be in the hollow of the right shoulder, with the edge to the front, which brings it to the position of *Carry Swords.*—The left hand, in dropping the scabbard as soon as the sword is drawn, remains as in the position of *Attention.*
Port Swords.	Bring the sword diagonally across the body, with the edge downwards, and, by bending the left elbow, raise the hand as high as the shoulder, taking hold of the

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
	blade between the thumb and fore finger, the knuckles being to the front, and the thumb extended towards the point of the sword.
Salute.	Lower the left arm, and raise the right to the position of *Recover Swords*, with the thumb extended on the side of the handle; then, without pause, gradually sink the wrist to the right, clear of the body, and rather in advance of the thigh, the arm extended, the elbow drawn in, and the sword lowered in the direction of the right foot, until the point is a few inches from the ground, with the edge to the left.—The left arm is at the same time to be raised to the left, as high as the shoulder, and brought gradually round with a circular motion, until the hand touches the peak of the cap, the knuckles being upwards, and the elbow raised.

The Salute in line is to be performed at the *second* and *third* motions of *Present Arms*: but on passing a superior officer in review order, the Salute should commence when ten paces distant from him, allowing four paces for both motions, which should now be blended into one, with a circular and graceful movement of the arm in coming up to the Recover; for the effect of the Salute depends chiefly upon the manner and address with which it is given: the head and eyes being also turned towards the person for whom the compliment is intended; and, having passed him about

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.

six paces, the sword is again brought to its original position. The Salute invariably commences as the left foot comes to the ground, and the same rule is followed in returning it to the Recover.

Port Swords.	Resume the Position of *Recover Swords*; and by a second motion come to the *Port*.
Carry Swords.	As directed under the third motion of *Draw Swords.*
Slope Swords.	The hand is carried to the front in line with the elbow, which now becomes close to the hip, with the sword resting upon the shoulder, and the edge being to the front.
Stand at Ease.	Bring the hands together, the left supporting the right; the back of the sword resting on the inside of the left arm, the right instep drawn close to the left heel, and the left knee slightly bent.

The preceding directions for Standing at Ease are only mean to apply when the officers are in front of the line, or at *Open Order*; as in the ranks, or at *Close Order*, the point should be lowered between the feet, the edge to the right, the hands together, with the left uppermost.

Carry Swords.	As before.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
Return Swords.	Bring the hilt to the hollow of the left shoulder, the blade being perpendicular, and the back of the hand to the front; then, by a sharp turn of the wrist, drop the point into the scabbard, turning the edge to the rear, until the hand and elbow are in a line with each other across the body; by a second motion replace the sword in the scabbard, keeping the hand upon the hilt, until withdrawn by a motion from the flugleman.

Great care should be taken to preserve the edge of the blade, by allowing the back alone to bear upon the scabbard.

During a march, or in close order for manœuvres, the sword may be carried with an extended arm, letting the outward part of the guard rest upon the inside of the fingers, with the thumb above it; the blade being perpendicular, and the back, near the point, in the hollow of the shoulder.

Prepare to perform Sword Exercise.	Being at the position of *Attention* with slope swords, turn the body and feet to the *First Position*, with the left hand resting upon the hip, and thumb to the rear.
Right, prove Distance.	Extend the arm to the right, and lower the sword in a horizontal direction from the shoulder, with the edge to the rear, and the left shoulder brought square to the front.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
Slope Swords.	As before.
Front, prove Distance.	Step out to the *Third Position*, and extend the arm, lowering the point of the sword towards the centre of the target, with the edge to the right.
Slope Swords.	As before.

In both movements of proving distance, the forefinger and thumb should be stretched along the handle, the thumb being on the back, with the end or pommel of the hilt, in the palm of the hand.

Guard.	Advance the point of the sword, extending the arm towards the centre of the target; the edge downwards, and thumb along the back of the handle: then, without pause, step out smartly to the *Second Position*, bending and raising the elbow, the hand being directly over the right foot, and turning the edge of the sword upwards to the right with the point lowered, and inclining to the left, so as to form an angle, through which the opponent should always be seen; the left shoulder brought a little forward, and the hilt of the sword inclining towards No. 1, and the point directed rather below, and to the left of No. 4.
Inside Guard.	Lower the wrist with the knuckles down, and over the foot; the point to the front,

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
	the edge to the left, and the hand as low as the elbow, which is to be nearly on a level with, and in front of, the upper part of the hip; at the same time make the *single attack*. The wrist is here inclined towards No. 4; the point towards No. 1.
Outside Guard.	Turn the wrist with the nails downwards, and bring the edge to the right, repeating the *single attack*; the hand inclining to No. 3; the point towards No. 2.
Assault.	Draw up to the *First Position*, and raise the right arm to the front, with the wrist opposite No. 1, and the elbow rather bent towards the centre of the circular figure; the back of the sword near the point resting on the shoulder, with the edge inclined to the right.
One.	Extending the arm, direct the cut to the front in a diagonal line from right to left, as shewn from No. 1, to No. 4; and as the point clears the circle, turn the knuckles upwards, and continue the sweep of the sword, so as to bring the point to the rear of the left shoulder, upon which it rests, with the edge inclined to the left, and the wrist opposite No. 2.
Two.	Direct the cut diagonally from No. 2, to No. 3, and turn the wrist, so that the sword continues its motion till it rises perpendi-

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
	cular to it, with the edge to the rear, and the arm extended to the right, on a level with the shoulder.
Three.	Cut diagonally upwards from No. 3, to No. 2, and continue the motion of the wrist so as to bring it to the hollow of the left shoulder, with the point of the sword perpendicular to it, and the edge to the rear.
Four.	Cut diagonally upwards from No. 4, to No. 1, and carry the sword to the right, turning the knuckles downwards, with the wrist as high as the shoulder, and the edge to the rear.
Five.	Cut horizontally from No. 5, to No. 6, and turn the knuckles up with the edge of the sword to the left, and point to the rear over the left shoulder.
Six.	Cut horizontally from No. 6, to No. 5, and bring the hand in the direction of No. 7; the sword being on the same line over the head, with the point lowered to the rear, and the edge uppermost.
Seven.	Cut vertically downwards from No. 7, to the centre of the circle, and remain with the arm extended, placing the thumb along the back of the handle, with the left shoulder well pressed back.

Words of Command. DIRECTIONS.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
First Point.	Turn the wrist with the edge of the sword upwards to the right, drawing back the hand just above, and in front of the right eye; the elbow well bent, and raised; and the left shoulder brought a little forward. By a second motion, extend the arm, and deliver the point smartly to the front in the direction of the centre of the Target, with the wrist inclining to No. 1, and press back the left shoulder, so as to advance the right, which should be equally attended to in the *second* and *third Points* also.

In this, and throughout the Instructions, where a *second motion* is required, the word of command *Two* must be given, unless the practice is carrying on with a flugelman.

Second Point.	Turn the edge upwards to the left, and draw in the elbow close to the body, with the wrist in a line above it, as high as, and in front of, the breast. By a second motion deliver the point as before directed, the wrist inclining to No. 2, and the edge raised with the knuckles downwards.
Third Point.	Draw in the arm till the wrist touches the upper part of the hip; the edge raised to the right, the left shoulder advanced, and the hips well thrown back. By a second motion deliver the point in the di-

Words of Command. DIRECTIONS.

rection, as marked on the Target, and raising the wrist towards the centre.

Guards.	This serves as a caution for the seven guards which follow, distinguished in the words of command by *First*, *Second*, &c.
First.	Turn the edge to the left, the thumb resuming its grasp of the handle, and draw in the elbow close to the body; the wrist being kept to the front, and the sword placed opposite the diagonal line, as shewn in the Target by the hilt marked *First Guard.*

In this, and in all the following Guards, the point should be advanced rather to the front.

Second.	Turn the wrist with the knuckles uppermost, and the edge to the right; the sword placed opposite the diagonal line with the hilt marked *Second Guard.*
Third.	Turn the wrist and edge to the left, nearly as high as the shoulder, with the point lowered to the right; the sword being held towards the diagonal line from the hilt marked *Third Guard.*
Fourth.	Turn the wrist and edge to the right, with the point to the left; the sword held towards the diagonal line from the hilt marked *Fourth Guard.*

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
Fifth.	Turn the edge to the left, with the wrist as high as the shoulder, to the front and left of the body ; the sword being placed opposite the perpendicular line from the hilt marked *Fifth Guard.*
Sixth.	Turn the wrist and edge to the right, so as to bring the sword opposite the perpendicular line from the hilt marked *Sixth Guard.*
Seventh.	Raise the hand above, and in advance of, the right ear ; the elbow being raised, and well kept back, with the left shoulder slightly brought forward, and the sword in the direction of the line from the hilt marked *Seventh Guard.*
Left Parry.	Lower the wrist nearly close to the right shoulder, with the thumb at the back of the handle, and the edge to the right ; the hips well pressed back, and the sword opposite the centre perpendicular line. By a second motion turn the wrist, so that the point falls to the rear, and forms a circle from left to right of your body, and again returns to its former position.
Right Parry.	Drop the point to the rear, and by the turn of the wrist continue the motion, so as to form a circle from right to left of your

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
	body; the sword returning to its position as before.

The *Cuts* and *Guards* may now be combined, and here it is more particularly intended to practice the recruit in shewing the guard for each cut, so as to impress it on his recollection. The Cuts should be given from the wrist to the full extent of the arm to the front, and in the *Third Position;* with the cut directed no further than the centre of the circle, opposite which the point should remain.

Left Cheek.	Step out to the *Third Position*, and deliver the cut *One* towards the centre of the Target, opposite to which the point is to remain steady with the arm extended, and the wrist kept well up in this, as in all the following cuts.
First Guard.	Spring up to the *First Position*, and form the *First Guard.*
Right Cheek.	Deliver cut *Two*, and remain as before.
Second Guard.	Spring up to the *Second Guard*, &c.
Wrist.	Deliver the cut *Three*, &c.
Third Guard.	Spring up to *Third Guard*, &c.
Leg.	Deliver cut *Four*, the point not carried above the height of the knee, *&c.*

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
Fourth Guard.	Spring up to *Fourth Guard* low down, and arm extended, *&c.*
Left Side.	Deliver the cut *Five*, &c.
Fifth Guard.	Spring up to *Fifth Guard*, &c.
Right Side.	Deliver cut *Six*, &c.
Sixth Guard.	Spring up to *Sixth Guard*, &c.
Head.	Deliver cut *Seven*, &c.
Seventh Guard.	Spring up to *Seventh Guard*, &c.
First Point.	As before directed, but the second motion given in the Third Position.
Left Parry.	Spring up to *First Position*, and parry.
Second Point.	As before, in *Third Position.*
Right Parry.	As before, in *First Position.*
Third Point.	As before, in *Third Position.*

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
Right and Left Parry.	Form both *Parries* on drawing up to the *First Position.*
Guard.	As before directed, in the *Second Position.*
Slope Swords.	As usual, drawing up to the *First Position.*

When performing by flugelman, the practice of the *Assault* should also be made as follows :—The elbow is slightly bent, and the wrist turned sufficiently to deliver the cut *One ;* the hand being brought to the front, and about the height of the face, so as to be in the direction of the centre of the Target, with the hips pressed well back. The seven cuts are then delivered without any material pause between them, as by the proper and timely turn of the wrist, each cut will lead into the other, and consequently blend their force together: the cuts should be given strong with the edge leading forwards, the wrist retaining its direction to the front, as much as possible, without moving to the right or left; and in returning to prepare for another cut, the edge should be drawn back nearly in the same line; the arm being a little bent, so as to allow a free play of the elbow and shoulder, in giving effective force to the cut, and then extended to the utmost in the delivery of it. Whenever the recruit fails to carry the edge well in making the *Assault*, he should be practised in combining the cuts *One* and *Four*, repeating them several times: also *Two* and *Three*, and *Five* and *Six* ; taking care that the edge leads on the respective lines in the Target, the wrist being darted towards the centre in each cut.

END OF THE SECOND PART.

PART III.

Of the Attack and Defence.

THE Drill being now complete in the formation of the *Cuts*, and their respective *Guards*, may put them in practice according to a regular mode of exercise, as follows: —

The whole are drawn up in *Two*, *Four*, or more *Ranks*, in the same proportion, so as to be well under the eye of the instructor: each rank being three paces, and the files two paces and a half, distant from each other. In this formation the whole of the preceding drill may be gone through, either by separate words of command, or with a flugelman.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS. *Front Rank Files.*	*Rear Rank Files.*
Front (or alternate) Ranks, Right about Face.	Come to the Right about.	
Prepare to Perform Attack and Defence.	The files oppose each other in the *First Position*, with sloped swords, as shewn in Sec. 2d. in *preparing to perform Sword Exercise.*	
Prove Distance.	Each File extends the arm with the knuckles uppermost, and sword horizontally on a line with the shoulder, so that	

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.	
	Front Rank Files.	*Rear Rank Files.*
	the point of each blade slightly touches the guard of the other; the hips well kept back; the Front Rank having their swords uppermost; and the Rear Rank giving way, or advancing, if requisite, to the proper measure.	
Slope Swords.	Files, slope Swords.	
Guard.	The whole step out to *Guard.*	
Inside Guard.	With the *single attack* the Files engage on the *Inside Guard;* the swords joining about eight inches from the point.	
Outside Guard.	Repeating the *single attack*, change to the *Outside Guard;* the swords joining, &c.	
Left Cheek.	Step out to *Third Position*, and deliver the cut *One.*	Spring up to *First Position*, with *First Guard.*
Right Cheek.	Spring up to *First Position* with *Second Guard.*	Step out to *Third Position*, and cut *Two.*

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS. *Front Rank Files.*	*Rear Rank Files.*
Wrist.	Cut *Three* in *Third Position.*	Form *Third Guard* in *First Position.*
Leg.	Form *Fourth Guard* in *First Position* low down, with the arm extended.	Cut *Four* in *Third Position.*
Left Side.	Cut *Five*, &c.	*Fifth Guard*, &c.
Right Side.	*Sixth Guard*, &c.	Cut *Six*, &c.
Head.	Cut *Seven*, &c.	*Seventh Guard*, &c.
First Point.	*Left Parry*, springing up to *First Position*, and ready to deliver *Third Point.*	Deliver *First Point*, &c.
Third Point.	Deliver *Third Point.*	*Left Parry*, &c. and ready to return *Third Point.*

The *Second Point* is omitted in the practice with swords, as in delivering it, the assailant's wrist is liable to be struck by the *Right Parry*, or he may be disarmed by the *Left Parry*, and accidents would consequently occur: but the Recruit should be fully instructed to avail himself of the *Second Point*, and both *Parries*, when opposed to an Enemy.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.
Guard.	Files to *Guard* in *Second Position.*
Slope Swords.	Slope Swords in First Position.

As this and the following practices in the present Section are not intended for loose practice, but to shew the different applications of the *Cuts* and *Guards*; both, and particularly the *Cuts*, should be given with the same precision, as at the Target; nor should one sword bear upon the other, but the wrist be kept well up, and ready to renew any requisite movement. Most particular attention should be observed that after proving distance, the Files do not move their left feet. The Feint with the point, and advantage of shifting the leg, (when engaged at the proper distance,) in preference to the guard, is shewn by the following Practice.

Feint Point, and shift the Leg, in Five Motions.	*Caution.*

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.	
	Front Rank Files.	*Rear Rank Files:*
Guard.	Files to *Guard.*	
One.	Prepare to give *Third Point*, remaining in *Second Position.*	Prepare to *Parry*, remaining in *Second Position.*
Two.	Advance the point towards the body, and by a quick motion of the wrist, raise it and avoid the *parry*, giving the point of the sword a sweep round the head, ready to cut *One*, and stepping out to *Third Position.*	*Left Parry*, which not meeting the opponent's blade, rise to *First Guard* in *First Position.*
Three.	Cut *One* at *Left Cheek.*	Remain steady with *First Guard.*
Four.	Spring up to *First Position* with the sword over the left shoulder ready to cut *Two.*	Cut *Four* at Leg in *Third Position.*

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS. Front Rank Files.	Rear Rank Files.
Five.	Cut *Two* at shoulder, but with caution and lightly, as the Rear Rank File does not guard it; being merely to shew the advantage of shifting the leg, and delivering a cut at the same instant.	Remain steady, and receive the cut.
Guard.	Files to Guard.	
Slope Swords.	Files Slope Swords.	

This Practice should be afterwards performed in three motions, by combining the second and third motions into one; and the fourth and fifth into one also.

The following practice is to exercise the Drill in giving, defending, and returning the point quickly; and it may be continued eight or ten times, giving a quick successive word of command, according to the ability of the parties engaged.

Words of Command.	Directions.
Give Point and Parry in Second *Position, by the numbers* Two *and* One.	*Caution.*

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS. *Front Rank Files.*	*Rear Rank Files.*
Guard.	Files to Guard.	
Point.	Prepare to give *Third Point.*	Prepare to Parry.
Two.	Advance the body by the extension of the left leg; and give *Third Point*, which when parried draw back the arm, ready to parry.	*Left Parry*, with the body and hips well back, and bring the sword ready to give *Third Point.*
One.	Draw back the body and *Left Parry*, &c.	Advance the body and give *Third Point*, &c.
Guard.	Files to Guards.	
Slope Swords.	Files Slope Swords.	

Equal practice may be given to all by the *Caution* which *Rank* is to commence; the *Front Rank* always doing so, unless otherwise directed.

The Squads should occasionally be formed rank entire, and it is good practice to put them through the *Guards* and *Points*, in each Position, particularly in the *First*; and also to change frequently from *First* to *Third*, and from *Second* to *Third*, in *Giving Point*.

END OF THIRD PART.

PART IV.

Of the Practice Drill with Sticks.

As no Exercise with the Sword can be brought to perfection without some species of *loose* or *independent practice*, Sticks should be substituted for Swords in the present instance, as, in Fencing, Foils are used for the acquirement of that Science.

The *Point* also is to be occasionally substituted for the *Cut*, and defended by the same *Guard* as for the latter; and as a thrust should always be given, if a good opportunity and opening is offered, such an advantage should be taken of the practice with sticks, and the thrust delivered by an immediate extension of the arm, when the point is in the proper line of direction.

In the following directions the word *sword* is retained, although the practice is with *sticks*, which should be above thirty-eight inches long, and not so weak as to bend; and the leather-practising hilts merely large enough to cover the hand, without confining it: strong wire masks ought always to be used, as it enables those who practise, to cut, or thrust, with more confidence.

The ranks are placed opposite to each other in *First Position*, with *sloped swords*; having previously proved their distance, and are ordered as follows for the *Practice by Numbers*:—

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.	
	Front Rank Files.	*Rear Rank Files.*
First Division.	*Caution.*	
Engage.	Files to Guard.	
Inside Guard.	To inside Guard.	
Outside Guard.	To outside Guard.	
One.	Cut *one* at Face in *Third Position.*	*First* Guard in *First* Position.
Two.	*Second* Guard in *First* Position.	Cut *Two* at Face in *Third* Position.
Three.	Cut *Three* at Wrist in *Third* Position.	*Third* Guard in *First* Position.
Four.	*Fourth* Guard in *First* Position.	Cut *Four* at Leg in *Third* Position.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.	
	Front Rank Files.	*Rear Rank Files.*
Five.	Cut *Five* at Left Side in *Third* Position.	*Fifth* Guard in *First* Position.
Six.	*Sixth* Guard in *First* Position.	Cut *Six* at Right Side in *Third* Position.
Seven.	Cut *Seven* at Head in *Third* Position.	*Seventh* Guard in *First* Position.
Slope Swords.	Files slope swords in First Position, and this may be ordered after each division, or at any time when they are required to stop.	
Second Division.	*Caution.*	
Engage.	Guard.	
One.	*First* Point in *Third* Position.	*First* Guard in *First* Position.
Two.	*Second* Guard in *First* Position.	*Second* Point in *Third* Position.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.	
	Front Rank Files.	*Rear Rank Files.*
Three.	*First* Point in *Third* Position.	*Third* Guard in *First* Position.
Four.	*Fourth* Guard in *First* Position.	*Second* Point in *Third* Position.
Five.	*Second* Point in *Third* Position.	*Fifth* Guard in *First* Position.
Six.	*Sixth* Guard in *First* Position.	*First* Point in *Third* Position.

In this Division, the files on the defensive should give sufficient opening for the *point*, springing up to the *First Position*, and forming the defence at the instant of the thrust, which is always directed at the body, according as the wrist is previously placed, either in *engaging*, or after having formed a *guard*; except in delivering the thrust from the *Fourth Guard*, when the quick turning of the wrist gives the point a better direction. The attacking Files should also be attentive to raise his wrist, and oppose the edge of his own to that of his opponent's sword, immediately he finds the thrust is parried, or the point thrown out of the line.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.	
	Front Rank Files.	*Rear Rank Files.*
Third Division.	*Caution.*	
Engage.	Files to Inside Guard.	
Two.	Step out to *Third Position*, and cut *Two*(lightly)below the knee.	Extend the left knee, with the arm raised ready to cut *One*.
One.	Remain in *Third Position*, guard head, bringing up left shoulder.	Cut *One* at head, remaining in *Second Position*, with the left knee extended.
Two.	Cut *Two* as before, throwing back the left shoulder, so as to advance the right.	Raise the hand as before to cut *One*.

To give proper distance for the movements in this Division, the Rear Rank File moves back his left leg on coming to *Engage*, and brings it up again at *Slope Swords*. The thrust at the body may also be substituted for the cut at the leg, the Rear Rank File defending by the *Sixth Guard*, and returning the cut at the head, as directed.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS. Front Rank Files.	DIRECTIONS. Rear Rank Files.
Fourth Division.	*Caution.*	
Engage.	Files to Inside Guard.	
Two.	Cut *Seven* at head, or *Two* at leg, in *Third Position*, as appears most advantageous.	*First Position* and *Seventh Guard*, which defends either cut.
Fifth Division.	*Caution.*	
Engage.	Files to Inside Guard.	
Two.	Cut *Six* at leg in *Third Position.*	*First Position*, and cut *Six* (lightly) at neck.
Sixth Division.	*Caution.*	
Engage.	Files to Inside Guard.	
Two.	Cut *Two* at arm, remaining in *Second Position.*	*Second Guard*, remaining in *Second Position.*

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.	
	Front Rank Files.	*Rear Rank Files.*
Seventh Division.	*Caution.*	
Engage.	Files to outside Guard.	
Two.	Cut *Three* at wrist, remaining in *Second Position.*	*Third Guard* remaining in *Second Position.*
Eighth Division.	*Caution.*	
Engage.	Files to outside Guard.	
Two.	Cut *Three* at wrist, remaining in *Second Position.*	Slip the wrist to the hip, with the point to the left, allowing the opponent's sword to pass the line of direction.
Three.	Draw the arm back to *Second Guard*, still remaining in *Second Position.*	Cut *Two* at arm, remaining in *Second Position.*

In the three preceding Divisions, sufficient opening should be given for the Cut, and the left knee extended in the delivery of it; and when forming the defensive Guard in the *Second Position*, the hand should be kept over the level of the right foot, with the point directed to the front.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.	
	Front Rank Files.	*Rear Rank Files.*
Ninth Division.	Caution.	
Engage.	Files to Inside Guard.	
One.	Feint Cut *Two*, and shift leg to *First Position.*	*Outside Guard*, and *Single Attack.*
Two.	Cut *One* at breast, in *Third Position.*	*First Guard* in *First Position.*

As the *Engage*, and *One*, in the three following practices, are the same as in the preceding one, the directions for them are not repeated.

(2d) Two.	Cut *Three* at wrist in *Thid Position.*	*Third Guard* in *First Position.*

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.	
	Front Rank Files.	*Rear Rank Files.*
(3d) *Two.*	Cut *Five* at leg, in *Third Position.*	Cut *Five* at breast, (lightly) in *First Position.*
(4th) *Two.*	Cut *Three* at leg, in *Third Position.*	*Third Guard* (low) in *Second Position*, and extend left knee.
Three.	Remain in *Third Position*, and cut *One* at breast.	Cut *Six* at leg (lightly) and shift to *First Position*, and *First Guard*.
Tenth Division.	*Caution.*	
Engage.	Files to Outside Guard.	
One.	Feint Cut *One* and shift leg to *First Position:*	*Inside Guard*, and *Single Attack.*
Two.	Cut *Two* at arm in *Third Position.*	*Second Guard* in *First Position.*

The *Engage*, and *One*, through the following practices as in the preceding one, and the directions are consequently not repeated.

Words of Command.	DIRECTIONS.	
	Front Rank Files.	*Rear Rank Files.*
(2*d*) *Two.*	Cut *Six* at right side in *Third Position.*	*Sixth Guard* in *First Position.*
(3*d*) *Two.*	Cut *Six* at leg in *Third Position.*	Cut *Six* at neck (lightly) in *First Position.*
(4*th*) *Two.*	Cut *Four* at leg in *Third Position.*	*Fourth Guard* in *Second Position,* and extend left knee.
Three.	Remain in *Third Position*, and cut *Two* at neck.	Cut *Five* at leg (lightly) and shift to *First Position* and *Second Guard.*

In the *First* and *Second Practices* of the two last Divisons, the Thrust should be occasionally given at the body, instead of the Cut.

It is good practice in the Drill with Sticks for each movement of Attack, or Defence, first to be performed in two motions, by repeating each number, the stick slightly touching the part to which it is directed, and the defence only formed when the number is given a second time; this enables the Instructor to see that the Attacking Files give their *Cuts* and *Thrusts* fully home, and accordingly to rule; and that the Files on the defensive come to a firm and correct position: it also greatly assists them in judging exactly where the weapons should cross each other.

As in the preceding Section, the whole should be reversed, by the *Rear Rank* commencing, instead of the *Front*; and when perfect by word of Command, they should be exercised by *Division*, the caution for this practice being given after the distance is proved, viz. :—"*Practice by Division*," to distinguish it from the "*Practice by Numbers*." In the Practice by Numbers, each Division may be kept up as long as requisite, by the Instructor repeating the *Numbers*, and "*Engage*," except in the *First*, *Second*, *Third* and *Eighth Divisions*, where the numbers only are repeated; and in the Practice by Division, each is continued also, without any further word of command, until (in both Practices) the Division is finished by the order to "*Slope Swords*."

A Feint is a half cut, or thrust, menacing an attack on one part, whilst the intention is to direct it at another; and the cut, or thrust, may be given immediately after the feint, without shifting the leg, when practising by Division.

Particular attention should be paid, that in the *Attack* the wrist preserves, as much as possible, the line of direction; and in each position of defence, that it only deviates sufficiently to form the guard, taking care to have the wrist, elbow, and shoulder, supple and easy, so as to be ready to deliver a cut, thrust, or any movement of Attack, or Defence.

When perfectly exercised and complete in the whole of the above Drill, the *Independent Practice* may be tried (under proper control) by the Files opposing each other, as in Single Combat, with swords; and delivering such cuts, or thrusts, as their judgment points out: avoiding, however, if possible, both making the attack at the same time, as the object should be to defend well, and immediately return upon their adversary; nor should their cuts, or thrusts, be given too strongly, as in friendly practice any unpleasant accidents should be avoided; and the moment either party is touched, they must stop, and after a pause, engage again at the proper distance, which should always be cautiously preserved: as it is supposed that the *Stick* is the substitute for the *Sword*, the cut is only considered fair, and effective, when given with that part which would, of course, correspond with the edge; nor should any thing be attempted with the *Stick*, which could not be performed with the *Sword*.

It would be useless to endeavour to state which are the best movements, as that must depend entirely on the judgment of the parties engaged, and their respective abilities; but as the loose play should not be allowed until a sufficient competency is attained by the parties, and they have been thoroughly instructed in the movements of attack and defence, they can never find themselves at a loss, if the Science is followed up by sufficient practice, and attention to the instructions they have received.

END OF THE FOURTH PART.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

AND

Directions.

THE Exercise of the Sword consists of Seven Cuts, or directions of the Edge; the same number of Guards, or defensive Positions; the Point (or Thrust) given with the nails up or down; and two circular motions of the Blade, termed Parries:—therefore, whatever may be the Attack, or Defence, it can only be formed by having recourse to some of the above movements, or a combination of them.

In Engaging, by which is meant the action of joining the sword of an opponent, either previous to his, or your own, attack, there should be only a slight pressure on his blade, so that the hand, or wrist, may be the more susceptible of any motions he may make; and though the Position termed *Guard* affords protection at the moment, it is merely considered as preparatory to any offensive, or defensive, movement, varying the latter according to the points liable to be attacked.

In all attacks, whether Cuts or Thrusts, the motion ought to increase in speed, the impetus being given at the last; the same rule should be observed in stepping out to the *Second* and *Third* Position: but, in recovering, the reverse is to be followed, as the first part, is the quickest; and nothing can

be of more importance, than that the eye should follow those of an opponent, and slightly glance at the part at which you intend to cut or thrust; taking care never to look at your own sword, which will invariably follow the eye wherever you direct it.

It is merely Drill Practice in making the *Assault* by *Numbers*, and although each *Cut* has its *Guard* according to the number, which answers for both, yet it does not follow, that the File on the Defensive is always to have recourse to it, as he may frequently be enabled to secure himself more effectively, and quicker, by forming another Guard. If, for example, he makes the cut *Six* at the body, and his opponent, after defending by the *Sixth Guard*, returns the cut *One* at the breast, then the *Fifth Guard* becomes the quickest movement of defence; but if the opponent has defended by the *Second Guard* previous to his return of the cut *One*, then the *First Guard* is the soonest formed; consequently the *First* and *Fifth Guards*, each, defend the cuts *One* or *Five*. The *Second* and *Sixth Guards* each defend the cuts *Two* or *Six*, according as they may be given high or low; and if the *Third* or *Fourth Guards* are required for the defence of the leg, the arm must be extended, so that the *forte* of the blade may receive the *foible* of the opponent's weapon; bearing well in mind, however, that in all cuts at the leg, when at the proper distance, the shifting of your own leg and delivering a cut at the same moment, becomes the most effective, and advantageous defence; and which is still more so to a tall man, (even in every part of the body) when engaged with another of lesser stature, or length of arm, as he will be out of his opponent's reach, whilst the latter may be within his. The power of defence does not, in fact, consist so much in your own strength of position, as in effecting a decided quick

movement in that direction, in which your opponent has the least power of resistance, especially in defending against the *Point*, when the *First*, *Third* and *Fifth Guards*, are the most effective against the *First* and *Third Point*; and the *Second*, *Fourth*, and *Sixth Guards* against the *Second Point*; provided the wrist is previously so placed, that the requisite Guards may be quickly executed. The two *Parries* must also be regulated by the position of the opponent's wrist, so that the bearing of your sword may tend to open his hand, and, if well judged, and timely given, will disarm him; or so cripple his wrist, as to preclude even the capability of forming a defensive guard, or continuing the attack.

If opposed to the small sword, have recourse to the cuts *Three* and *Four*, directing them at the arm, by which means there is every probability of the cuts taking effect; as it must always in thrusting come within range of the Edge, before the Point can be sufficiently advanced to reach the body. If the above cuts are quickly given and continued, they will also be found advantageous in advancing against the small sword, as they form an Attack and Defence at the same instant; but should the opponent be the most skilful and quickest, then it is best to retire while forming them, cautiously preserving the proper distance, so that each cut may just reach the fore part of his arm.

The *Second Point*, if delivered as a first movement, should be given with great caution, the wrist being then so liable to the disarm. It should be resorted to chiefly in the return, or after a Feint from the outside or inside Guards; if from the former, Feint *Third Point* under and deliver *Second Point* over the arm; if from the latter, Feint cut *Two*, and continue the sweep of the sword, until the point is sufficiently lowered to deliver without pause the *Second Point* at the body under the arm.

Although a regular mode is laid down for drawing the sword, yet occasional practice should be given to come to the *Guard* immediately, and at any required point, without going through the Parade motions, &c., which will prepare the Swordsman for any sudden attack of an Enemy.

Many similar remarks will naturally occur to those who have had practical experience; and the Instructors should endeavour, as much as possible, in their progressive directions to the Recruit, to impress them upon his mind by such occasional observations, as they become most applicable. Opportunities of thus explaining may often be taken during the pauses of rest, as no Squad should be kept too long either in the Positions, or Movements; and where any Recruits are more deficient than the rest, the whole should be made to cease for the moment, and those, who have gone wrong, be required to correct their error.

Words of Command,

THROUGHOUT THE

PROGRESSIVE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE DRILL.

Those printed in *Italics* are to serve as a Caution only.

FIRST PART.

Attention.

First Extension Motions.

One.—Two.—Three.—Four.—Five.

Stand at Ease.

Attention.

First Position in three Motions.

One.—Two.—Three.

Second Position in two Positions.

One.—Two.

Balance Motions.

One.—Two.—Three,—Four.

First Position.

Third Position in two Motions.

One.—Two.

Second Extension Motions.

One.—Two.—Three.—Four.—Five.

First Position.

Front.

Stand at Ease.

Attention.

Positions by Numbers.

One.—Two.—Three.

Two.—One.—Three.

First Balance Motion.—Three.

First Balance Motion.—Two.

Single Attack.—Double Attack.

Advance.—Single Attack.

Retire.—Double Attack.

Front.

Stand at Ease.

Attention.

Draw Swords.

Slope Swords.

Prepare to perform Sword Exercise.

Right Prove Distance.

Slope Swords.

Front Prove Distance.

Slope Swords.

Guard.

Inside Guard.—Outside Guard.

*Assault**.

One.—Two.—Three.—Four.—Five.—Six.—Seven.

First Point.—Second Point.—Third Point.

*Guards**.

First.—Second.—Third.—Fourth.-Fifth. -Sixth.—Seventh.

Left Parry.—Right Parry.

Left Cheek,—First Guard.

Right Cheek.—Second Guard.

Wrist.—Third Guard.

Leg.—Fourth Guard.

Left Side.—Fifth Guard.

Right Side.—Sixth Guard.

Head.—Seventh Guard.

First Point.—Left Parry.

Second Point.—Right Parry.

Third Point.—Right and Left Parry.

Guard.

Slope Swords.

Stand at Ease.

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* If performed by Flugelman the Numbers are omitted.

Attention.
Front Rank, Right about Face.
epare to perform Attack and Defence.
Prove Distance.
Slope Swords.
Guard.
Inside Guard.—Outside Guard.
Left Cheek.—Right Cheek.
Wrist.—Leg.
Left Side.—Right Side.—Head.
First Point.—Third Point.
Guard.
Slope Swords.

Feint Point, and Shift Leg; in Five Motions.
Guard.
One.—Two.—Three.—Four.—Five.
Guard.
Slope Swords.
The Same Practice in Three Motions.
Guard.
One.—Two.—Three.
Guard.
Slope Swords.

Point and Parry in Second Position, by Numbers Two and One.
Guard.
Third Point.
Two.—One.—(*Continuing them as long as requisite.*)
Guard.
Slope Swords.
Stand at Ease.